



Central Waste Complex

U.S. Department of Energy • Richland Operations Office



The mission of the Central Waste Complex (CWC) is to receive and store radioactive waste in a safe and environmentally compliant manner. The storage facilities, located in the Hanford 200-West Area, include 12 small mixed waste storage buildings (the 2402 series); seven large storage buildings (the 2403 and 2404 series); and Building 2420-W, used for cask storage. In addition there are 27 modules for storing low-flash point mixed waste and 12 modules for storing alkali metals. DOE-RL's Waste Management Division has programmatic responsibility for the facility; the operating contractor is Fluor Hanford.

CWC provides interim storage for mixed low-level waste, transuranic waste, and a small amount of low-level waste, awaiting treatment and final disposal. The design storage

capacity is approximately 80,000 55-gallon drum equivalents; the operational capacity is 64,000 drum equivalents. As of September 1, 2001 the inventory was approximately 42,500 drum equivalents. The stored waste types are 84% mixed low-level, 13% transuranic, and 3% low-level.


Quick Facts

Facilities:	7 large storage buildings
	12 small storage buildings
	27 storage modules for low-flashpoint waste
	12 storage modules for alkali metal
Storage Area:	Office and maintenance buildings
	300,000 sq. ft.
Capacity:	
	64,000 drum equivalents (operational capacity)

CWC receives waste from both onsite and offsite waste generators. Receipt of transuranic waste drums retrieved from the Low Level Burial Grounds began in 1994. All newly generated waste must meet acceptance criteria set by the Hanford Site Solid Waste Acceptance Program. Waste is generally packaged in 55-gallon drums unless alternate packages are dictated by size, shape or other form of waste. Each drum is handled individually using a hand truck, fork lift or crane. Drums are placed on wooden pallets with a maximum of four drums banded together; the pallets can then be stacked three-high, or 12 drums per stack. The storage buildings or pads have physical features that provide for segregated storage areas to maintain appropriate separation between groups of incompatible waste.



Above: Receipt of drums at CWC.



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- Acceptance Criteria**
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Hanford Site Solid Waste Acceptance Program

The Hanford Site operates waste management units to manage the various types of radioactive waste onsite and from elsewhere in the U.S. Department of Energy complex. The solid waste acceptance program ensures that waste sent to these waste management units complies with all environmental, safety, and operational requirements.

This web site describes the Hanford Site program for acceptance of radioactive waste. Information available includes:

- What's New?** - new information on this web site.
- Acceptance Criteria** - the technical requirements for acceptance of waste on the Hanford site are described in the *Hanford Site Solid Waste Acceptance Criteria* (HNF-E P-0063, latest revision).
- Acceptance Process** - describes how customers can obtain approval to ship radioactive waste to the Hanford Site. There is information on waste stream approval, shipment approval, funding, waste receipt quality assurance program, and information for potential new customers.
- Tools** - We are developing a variety of tools to make shipping waste easier. You will find electronic forms, lists of approved products, storage/disposal rates, waste specification records, and other useful information here.
- Hanford Points-of-Contact** - If you need to talk to someone concerning waste management, you can find the right person here.

We maintain an electronic mail list for users who would like to be notified of significant changes to the solid waste acceptance program. To have your name added to the mailing list, send e-mail to waste_acceptance_criteria-WH@hsc.gov. Please include your name, title or position, company or agency, and your email address.

Hanford Home Page

For questions or comments please send [email](#) to

*Above: The Hanford Site Waste Acceptance Program provides waste acceptance criteria.
Below: Drum storage in CWC.*



Historical Note

The U. S. Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office owns the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington State. Hanford was established during World War II as part of the top secret Manhattan Project to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. Weapons material production was halted in the late 1980's. The Hanford Site is now engaged in the world's largest cleanup effort to deal with the legacy of radioactive and hazardous wastes that resulted from the plutonium production era. Hanford's cleanup program is regulated by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington Department of Ecology under a long term compliance contract called the Tri-Party Agreement. This agreement sets the framework and timelines on the cleanup work so that Hanford meets current environmental standards. The Central Waste Complex has an important role in meeting these environmental standards.

